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From a painting by Daniel Huntington,
in possession of the Chamber of Commerce.

TRIBUTE

OF THE

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

OF THE

STATE OF NEW-YORK

TO THE MEMORY OF

WILLIAM E. DODGE,

OCTOBER FIRST,

NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THREE.

194026

TRIBUTE

TO THE MEMORY OF

WILLIAM E. DODGE.

At the monthly meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held October 1st, 1903, the death of William E. Dodge, a former Vice-President of the Chamber, was announced by Mr. Morris K. Jesup, President, in the following words:

Gentlemen: Before proceeding with the regular business of the Chamber, it is my duty to announce that which, of course, you all know of, the death of one of our most distinguished members, Mr. William E. Dodge. But a few months ago we were called upon to mourn the loss of Mr. Samuel D. Babcock and of the Hon. Abram S. Hewitt, and in the death of Mr. Dodge the Chamber has been again stricken. I would like to say what is in my heart with reference to Mr. Dodge but I dare not attempt it. He was my oldest and best friend from boyhood, our relations with each other were of the most intimate nature, con-

sequently, I dare not permit myself to say what I feel ; but I will say this, that in the forty-four years that Mr. DODGE was a member of this Chamber, there was never an emergency requiring action on the part of the Chamber, in any business or philanthropic work, but he was one of the foremost to aid, ready always to give his time, his thought and his money. The Chamber can ill afford to lose such men. You all know how genial and kind he always was to everybody, and what a true friend he was to those who needed friendship, guidance and help. I have asked Mr. CHARLES S. SMITH to prepare a paper to submit for your consideration ; and I hope that the time that the Chamber gives to this matter will be taken advantage of by any one here who feels it in his heart to speak a few short words with reference to the loss we all feel regarding Mr. DODGE's death.

Mr. CHARLES S. SMITH submitted the following

MEMORIAL.

We were recently called to say some parting words in memory of SAMUEL D. BABCOCK and ABRAM S. HEWITT, and now WILLIAM EARL DODGE, who assisted on the occasion of the BABCOCK and HEWITT Memorials, has followed his and our friends "across the bar." It is fitting that this Chamber should place on its records, as

an inspiring example, its appreciation of the life and character of our late associate.

Mr. DODGE was born in this City on February 15th, 1832, and died on the 9th of August last. He inherited from his distinguished father (the twenty-second President of the Chamber) eminent qualities as a philanthropist, and, like him, was a successful and an honorable merchant. He was the founder of the Young Men's Christian Association of this City, and was the patron and promoter of many useful and beneficent institutions. He had a talent for enduring friendship. He was the friend of all good men, and was conspicuously sympathetic and helpful to young people who were striving to find a useful career. His gifts, public and private, often concealed from observation, were princely and wisely administered. He was a diligent student of public questions, and had a large and well selected library, where many of his leisure hours were spent. He disliked strife, and was by nature and inclination a peace-maker. Upon all occasions Mr. DODGE was the courteous and cultivated Christian gentleman. Without intruding upon the privacy of his home life, we may be permitted to say that in these surroundings Mr. DODGE's life was ideally serene and beautiful.

Mr. DODGE was for fifty-three years connected with the firm of which, at the time of his death, he was the senior member. That firm was formed in 1817 under the name of PHELPS & PECK. In 1834 the name was

changed to PHELPS, DODGE & Co., under which name it still retains its prominence in commercial circles. In its long history it never failed to meet every obligation.

Mr. DODGE rendered important service to the country, at Washington, in securing the adoption of the gold standard, and especially at the Indianapolis Convention, to which he was a delegate from the Chamber.

His name and influence were sought as director and trustee in many important institutions in this City and elsewhere. He was Vice-President and Trustee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Vice-President and Trustee of the Museum of Natural History, Trustee of the Botanical and Zoological Gardens, President of the Ansonia Clock Co., Brooklyn, N. Y., Director of the American Brass Co., Vice-President and Director of the Copper Queen Consolidated Mining Company, Vice-President and Director of the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad Company, and of several other companies in Arizona, which have done so much to develop the resources of the Southwest.

Mr. DODGE'S absence from the meetings of the Chamber has left a sad void among its useful working members. No member was more constant in his attendance; his aid and support could always be relied upon for all good measures. He was fluent, forceful and instructive in debate. The memory of his words

and presence, always kind and influential, will remain among the cherished traditions of this Chamber.

REMARKS OF MR. A. FOSTER HIGGINS.

MR. PRESIDENT AND FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER: It has been my great privilege to be associated as a personal friend with Mr. DODGE more than fifty years. I can add nothing to the very interesting memorial which our friend Mr. SMITH has given of Mr. DODGE's life; but last evening in the paper there was a description of one of our fellow members which struck me as applying with wonderful accuracy to the life and character of Mr. DODGE:

"There is nothing in the present, and there is nothing in the past of this gentleman to excuse, apologize for, or condone. In a time when the air is full of tricks and treacheries, equivocations and bargains, and light-headed or hot-headed follies, when some men are disappointing their friends by their weakness under temptation, and others by their impulsive indiscretions, this gentleman has always kept his honor and his head."

There is something, sir, in the record of a beautiful life which produces admiration and adds strength to all of us. I felt that I might say a few words by which we ourselves might be strengthened and encouraged. I thank God for the men that hold up before the world an unsullied record. Our dear friend, who is gone, left such

a record; and I always feel that when a life which has been pure and altogether lovely is closed, instead of mourning, instead of sorrowing, we should send up a shout of triumph. To me, sir, there is nothing so charming as such a life, with its example, with its precepts and with its deeds. I trust there is no one of us here but feels that a constant aspiration for progress is in our spiritual life. We are engaged in business, and we are very absorbed in our occupations, but we have a constant necessity to think and dwell upon this spiritual life. I am confident that no thoughtful man exists that does not realize that this world is but a vestibule of the great life, that eternal life which we are all approaching. I trust there is not one of us who will not feel strengthened by the beautiful record of this closed life. May each one of us have the aspiration to express the wish that "we may die the death of the righteous and our last end be like his."

REMARKS OF MR. R. FULTON CUTTING.

MR. PRESIDENT: I am very glad,i ndeed, to speak to the memorial to Mr. DODGE which has been presented. I knew him for many years. He was a man with whom acquaintance rapidly ripened into friendship and friendship into affectionate regard. He was of an emotional temperament, more so, I think, than most of us, but his

emotion was of the genuine type. His heart was so big that it swelled outward to the surface. He was connected with a great many philanthropic and religious enterprises, and in these as well as in his business he was very successful, yet the methods he employed were wholly different from those of the typical American. There was little about him of the irresistible rush of our captains of industry. If one would sum up the genius of his power it would be in the words of the Hebrew prophet, "In quietness and confidence shall be thy strength." It is a great pleasure to me to add these few words of tribute to the memory of an old and valued friend, one of the best of citizens, one of the worthiest of men.

REMARKS OF MR. ROBERT M. THOMPSON.

MR. PRESIDENT: Permit me to give expression to my respect and esteem for the good man who has passed away.

I came a stranger to this City twenty-five years ago and found Mr. DODGE a leader in the trade I adopted, and I can never forget his sympathetic assistance given then and continued down to the last day of his active business life. He was always kindly, thoughtful and willing to assist others. He was a good man and will be missed.

REMARKS OF MR. GUSTAV H. SCHWAB.

MR. PRESIDENT: I ask the privilege of adding a few words of tribute to the memory of our departed friend, WILLIAM EARL DODGE, in behalf of the younger members of this Chamber. I have frequently had occasion to call upon Mr. DODGE when some emergency arose in public life, or when there was some new public movement to be started, and always met from him the most courteous and encouraging reception. He was still full of enthusiasm, although engrossed in business cares, and we never, in approaching him in a matter of that kind met with a refusal. We younger men looked up to him as an example of what can be done in this City of ours by men who are engrossed in business but who still find time to devote themselves to public affairs and to show their public spirit in their works. Mr. Chairman, I should like to move that the Memorial presented by Mr. SMITH be spread on the minutes, and that a copy thereof be presented to the family of our deceased friend.